DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 293 127 CS 211 118

TITLE Grade 12 Diploma Examination, English 33. Part A: Written Response. 1988 Edition.
INSTITUTION Alberta Dept. of Education, Edmonton.
PUB DATE Jan 88
NOTE 31p.; The visual part of this test may not reproduce clearly. For related documents, see CS 211 115-120; for the the 1985, 1986, and 1987 editions, see ED 263 569-581, Ed 272 903-909, and ED 280 043-048.
PUB TYPE Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Achievement Tests; Educational Assessment; English Instruction; Foreign Countries; Grade 12; High Schools; *Literature Appreciation; Multiple Choice Tests; Pictorial Stimuli; Reader Response; *Reading Comprehension; *Reading Skills; Reading Tests; Student Evaluation; Test Items; *Writing (Composition); Writing Evaluation; *Writing Skills
IDENTIFIERS Alberta; *English Examinations

ABSTRACT

Intended for students taking the Grade 12 Diploma Examinations in English 33 in Alberta, Canada, this test on writing contains general instructions and the following three writing tasks: (1) a personal response to an aspect of literature; (2) functional writing requiring a written response within a given situation or context; and (3) a response to visual communication requiring students to write about the details in a photograph and their personal reactions to it. The booklet contains space for planning and drafting the compositions, as well as for writing the revised work. (ARH)

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GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMINATION

English 33

Part A: Written Response

January 1988

Alberta
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GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMINATION
ENGLISH 33

PART A: Written Response

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This examination consists of THREE sections. Read the **WHOLE** examination before you begin to write. Complete **ALL** sections.

Total time: 2½ hours

Budget your time carefully.

The three sections of the test are as follows:		Page Number
Section I:	Personal Response to Literature Suggested time: 75 minutes Value: 50% of this examination	2
Section II:	Functional Writing Suggested time: 45 minutes Value: 30% of this examination	13
Section III:	Response to Visual Communication Suggested time: 30 minutes Value: 20% of this examination	21

You may use a **DICTIONARY** and a **THESAURUS**.

Space is provided for PLANNING AND DRAFTING and for REVISED WORK.

Please write your revised work in blue or black ink.

DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ANYWHERE
IN THE TEST BOOKLET.

JANUARY 1988

SECTION I: PERSONAL RESPONSE TO LITERATURE

Read "Hitchhiker from a Far Country" and complete the assignment that follows.

HITCHHIKER FROM A FAR COUNTRY

I never pick up hitchhikers, but something about this man made it impossible to pass him by. From behind, he looked shabby, a thin, short figure in baggy pants, an old cloth cap askew on his head, a tattered knapsack hanging by one strap.

I caught his face in the rearview mirror. On it was not the drawn, hangdog look I had expected, but an expression of serenity. The body looked old, but the face was youngish, ageless, with pale eyes that seemed set on some far horizon.

On impulse I backed and asked if he wanted a lift. He stared at me, just barely nodded and then got into my car.

"From around here?" I asked.

"Not really," he replied.

"Where are you heading?"

"Just on a way."

"And then where?"

"Beyond that, somewhere." Even though he said it politely, I got the message. Where he was heading was his business. I let him off outside my motel. "Thank you kindly," he said. As he set off down the road, I wondered if I had seen one of the last of the ancient order of hoboes.

Later, setting out for a restaurant, I saw him standing near my car. *Oh-oh*, I thought, *here comes the touch.* I nodded curtly and made to get into the car. "Please," he said, and I was strangely moved by the gentlemanly, old-world courtesy in his tone. "You gave me a ride today. I should like to repay you."

"No need. It was nothing."

"Yes, it was. It was a kindness. Please." Those pale eyes gave me the sense of a world completely alien to mine.

I shrugged. With the flourish of a courtier he stood aside and gestured me into the car. I slid in, rolled down the window and looked up at him. He reached back into his knapsack and I tensed. My hand curled into a ready fist. But from the knapsack he pulled an old harmonica and I quickly relaxed. *Weird*, I thought. *But harmless.* Then the first notes floated out, and I froze.

What came from this harmonica was not music I recognized, not classical, not country, not jazz, not anything in my world. It came from some far country deep inside him. It was extemporaneous[1] but the notes had relation to one another, as pearls on a string do, each a little bigger than the next, until you reach the biggest and you get the same relationship, but this time going down. I found myself gulping at the oddly beautiful sounds coming from this odd man.

A young couple came out of the motel. They heard the harmonica and paused, with snickering half-smiles. I was suddenly embarrassed, and tried to swagger the embarrassment away. "Okay, hot rock, that's great, but I have to go." I said it not unkindly, but with a certain uneasy flippancy that I could tell came out smart-alecky and patronizing. The young couple laughed.

Continued

[1] extemporaneous — performed without preparation or practice

The music faltered, then slowly died, and there was a moment of silence. He lowered the harmonica, his eyes still on me. His lips moved in what could have been a small, sad smile. Then he turned, hitched his knapsack higher on his shoulder and started down the road. I watched him go.

The young couple laughed. The man said: "World's full of weirdos, ain't it?"

I turned away from them. I suddenly wanted to run after the thin, sadly dignified figure growing smaller down the highway. But I changed my mind. I knew that even if I did, there was nothing I could say. I had had my moment. And now it was gone.

Edgar Bracco

THE ASSIGNMENT

The selection "Hitchhiker from a Far Country" describes one man's experience with a person who behaves in an unusual way.

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL OPINION OF THE DRIVER'S RESPONSES TO THE HITCHHIKER IN THIS SITUATION?

In your writing BE SURE to

- **describe the driver's responses to the hitchhiker**
- **examine why the driver acted as he did**
- **EXPRESS YOUR PERSONAL OPINION ABOUT THE TYPE OF BEHAVIOR DEMONSTRATED BY THE DRIVER.**

BE SURE TO SUPPORT YOUR OPINION. You may support your thoughts by referring to the selection itself, to your own experiences and knowledge, and/or to other literature you have studied.

Present your ideas in any PROSE form that will make your writing interesting.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on pages 6, 8, and 10.

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on pages 7, 9, and 11.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on pages 8 and 10.

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on pages 9 and 11.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on page 10.

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on page 11.

Section I: Personal Response to Literature

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

REVISED WORK

GO ON TO SECTION II

SECTION II: FUNCTIONAL WRITING

Read the situation described below and complete the assignment that follows.

THE SITUATION

The Nalwen Community League has written a letter to the Students' Union of Nalwen Composite High School requesting student volunteers for the following community projects:

- Meals-on-Wheels for senior citizens
- Assistance with home maintenance for senior citizens
- Weekend entertainment in the seniors' lodge
- Fund-raising for children's pool
- Weekend playground supervision and instruction
- Organizing and conducting children's arts and crafts workshops
- Clean-up of Nalwen Creek
- Tree-planting
- Park construction and maintenance

THE ASSIGNMENT

FROM THE PROJECTS LISTED ABOVE, CHOOSE A SPECIFIC PROJECT THAT YOU BELIEVE WILL FILL THE GREATEST NEED IN THE NALWEN COMMUNITY. WRITE THE SPEECH THAT YOU WILL GIVE TO CONVINCE YOUR CLASSMATES TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME FOR THIS PROJECT.

In your speech BE SURE to

- **explain why you are addressing the class and describe the project that you propose**
- **convince your classmates of the ways in which the community will benefit from the project**
- **convince your classmates of the ways in which they will benefit from involvement in the project**
- **use an appropriate tone**

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on pages 16 and 18.

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on pages 17 and 19.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on page 18.

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on page 19.

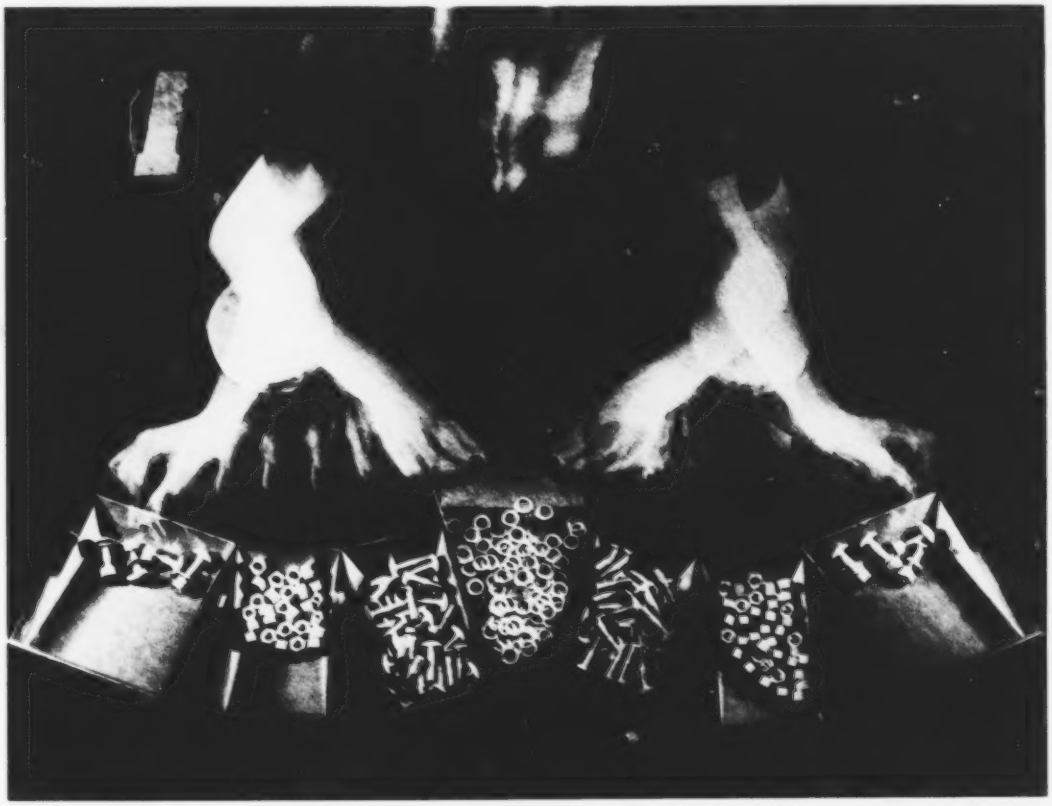
PLANNING AND DRAFTING

REVISED WORK

GO ON TO SECTION III

SECTION III: RESPONSE TO VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Examine the photograph below and complete the assignment on page 23.



Continued

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on page 24.

Section III: Response to Visual Communication

This photograph is included in a book of photographs called *The Family of Man*. It is in the section that illustrates men and women working with their hands.

THE ASSIGNMENT

What does the photograph communicate to you? Explain how the content of the photograph and the photographer's techniques reinforce the ideas and/or feelings that are communicated.

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on page 25.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

REVISED WORK

CREDITS

Edgar J. Bracco. "Hitchhiker from a Far Country" (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston). Reprinted by permission of Edgar J. Bracco.

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M1 M2 M3

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ENGLISH 33: PART A

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ENGLISH 33: PART A